


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: April 29, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Saturday 5/01/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bike Newton Senior Ride Along the Charles River Path
Monday 5/02/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning & Development Board, 7:30 p.m., Room 209
Tuesday 5/03/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Wednesday 5/04/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 202• Women's Enterprise Initiative Forum, 6:15 p.m., Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library
Thursday 5/05/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:00 p.m., cancelled• Fair Housing Forum on Reasonable Accommodations, 6:30 p.m., The Carroll Center for the Blind, Technology Center• Austin Street Joint Advisory Planning Group, 7:00 p.m., Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street• Newton Farm Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 222

- **Bike Newton:** Bike Newton will co-host a Senior Bike Ride along the Charles River Path on **Saturday, May 1st** from 12-3 p.m. For more information call **Newton Parks and Recreation at 617-796-1500** or the **Newton Senior Center 617-796-1600**; Safety checks at 12 p.m., ride starts at 1 p.m. Bike Newton Steering Committee meeting will be held **Wednesday, May 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Brigham House, 20 Hartford Street in Newton Highlands. On **Sunday, May 15th** Bike Newton will be participating in NewtonSERVES to maintain and upgrade off-road bike paths followed by an ice cream social, music, and Bike Newton rally at the War Memorial Circle at City Hall. For more information **contact Steve Heinrichs at sheinr41423@aol.com**.
- **Planning & Development Board:** The Planning and Development Board will meet on **Monday, May 2nd** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 209. Agenda items for the Board acting at the Community Development Board include the approval of the April 4 minutes; public hearing on the proposed FY12 CDBG and HOME Budget (estimated 16.5% reduction for CDBG and 12% reduction for HOME); consideration of the approval of the recommendation from the Newton Corner Advisory Committee to transfer a total of \$16,000 in CDBG Neighborhood Improvement funds to the Farlow Park/Chaffin Park Improvements project to help fund the restoration of the historic Chaffin Park stone wall along Centre Street; and discussion of nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning and Development Board. **Contact Kathleen Cahill at 617.796.1125 or kcahill@newtonma.gov**.
- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 4th** at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202. The agenda items are as follows: Review of April meeting minutes; an update on the Fair Housing Month program on May 5th; Stakeholder feedback on draft Architectural Access Report and discussion of next steps; Membership; Discussion of work plan for near future; and other business (including a report on the Metro Boston Consortium Fair Housing Caucus). **Contact Robert Muollo at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov**.
- **Women's Enterprise Initiative Forum:** The spring business plan forum will be held on **Wednesday, May 4th** at the Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library; networking and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. and program to follow from 6:45 – 9:00 p.m. Beth Finnegan and Cathy Friedmen, owners of Five Bites Cupcakes in Wellesley, will present their business plan. Mary Richardson, formerly co-anchor of WCVB-TV's "Chronicle" and

currently community liaison for Caritas Christi Health Care, will moderate the event, with panelists Myrna Greenfield, Angela Rutzick, and Jean Terranova. Thanks to our generous sponsors, Boston Private Bank & Trust Company and The Village Bank, this event is free to all – please join us! **Register at www.newtonma.gov/wei. Contact Danielle Bailey at 617-796-1139 or Amanda Stout at 617-796-1127 or wei@newtonma.gov.**

- **Fair Housing Forum on Reasonable Accommodations:** This educational forum sponsored by the Newton Fair Housing Committee, will be held on **Thursday, May 5th** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at The Carroll Center for the Blind's Technology Center, 770 Centre Street in Newton. The event will focus on the importance of providing reasonable accommodations in housing and related facilities for people with disabilities, with a panel of Newton residents sharing their experiences. Barbara Chandler of Metro Boston Housing Partnership will be the guest presenter and moderator. All are invited to attend, but seating is limited. **To RSVP contact Robert Muollo at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov at your earliest convenience, but no later than May 2nd.**
- **Austin Street Joint Advisory Planning Group:** The Austin Street JAPG will meet on **Thursday, May 5th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. The agenda includes a discussion with respondents to the RFI and further discussion of a vision for the reuse of the Austin Street parking lot site. Detailed agendas and meeting notes can be found on our webpage www.newtonma.gov/austinst. **Contact Eve Tapper at 617.796.1141 or etapper@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newton Farm Commission:** The Farm Commission will meet on **Thursday, May 5th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 222. The following items are on the agenda: Updates on the Hoophouse Grant, pullet shed, and on the Community Preservation Committee's Barn Renovation Project; Review of First Quarter Financial Statements; Commission reappointments and minutes will also be discussed. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**
- **FAR Public Forum:** The Planning and Development Department will offer a public forum on **Wednesday, May 11th** at 9:00 a.m. in the War Memorial at Newton City Hall to review and answer questions about the recently adopted new floor area ratio (FAR) regulations for one- and two-family homes in residential zoning districts, which will take effect October 15, 2011. Prior to the meeting we encourage you to visit our website www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php where you'll find FAQ's, FAR calculator and more helpful information. The Inspectional Services and Planning Departments are asking those submitting applications for building permits and special permits to please use the worksheet on the website (also available at the ISD counter at City Hall) to calculate FAR under both current and new regulations; the data may help applicants decide whether they wish to wait until October 15th to submit an application and will also be used to monitor implementation of the new FAR regulations. **For more information please view the FAQ's from the web link above, email us at FAR@newtonma.gov or call 617.796.1120.**
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The Committee's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 18th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville. The agenda includes a **public hearing** & possible funding vote for funding work on Newton's next **Open Space Plan**,; and a possible funding vote on construction funding for the **Museum Archives** project (Jackson Homestead), which has already received design funding. Both proposals should be online by May 3rd under "Proposals & Projects" on www.newtonma.gov/cpa or contact Alice Ingerson at 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The April meeting of the Newtonville Historic District Commission has been **cancelled**. The next filing deadline is May 25th and the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, June 2nd**. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.**